

REMARKS

Introduction

Claims 1-29 are pending in this application, wherein claims 1-2, 9, 11-13, 16-17, and 22 have been amended to place the application in condition for allowance or in better form for consideration on appeal. It should be noted that the Applicant does not acquiesce in the Examiner's rejections, but rather has elected to amend the claims in order to expedite prosecution of the application leading to issuance of a patent.

Claim Objections / Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 4, 5, 12, 17, and 18 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

35 U.S.C. § 102(b) – Larisey, Jr., et al.

Claims 1-3, 6-11, 13-16, and 19-29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Larisey, Jr. et al. (USP 6,185,769)(hereinafter "Larisey").

1. Claim 1

Claim 1 is amended to incorporate subject matter from allowable Claim 4.

2. Claims 2-3, 6-8, and 28

Claims 2-3, 6-8, and 28 depend from Claim 1, which, as amended, Applicant believes to be allowable.

3. Claim 9

Claim 9 is amended to incorporate subject matter from allowable Claim 12.

4. Claims 10 and 15

Claims 10 and 15 depend from Claim 9, which, as amended, Applicant believes to be allowable.

5. Claim 11

Claim 11 is amended to incorporate subject matter from allowable Claim 12.

6. Claim 12

Claim 12 depends from Claim 11, which Applicant believes is now allowable.

7. Claim 13

Claim 13 is amended to incorporate subject matter from allowable Claim 12.

8. Claim 14
Claim 14 depends from Claim 13, which Applicant believes is now allowable.
9. Claim 16
Claim 16 is amended to incorporate subject matter from allowable Claim 17.
10. Claims 17-21 and 29
Claims 17-21 and 29 depend from Claim 16, which Applicant believes is now allowable.
11. Claim 22
Claim 22 is amended to incorporate subject matter from allowable Claim 17.
12. Claims 23-27
Claims 23-27 depend from Claim 22, which Applicant believes is now allowable.

Final Remarks

Applicant notes with appreciation the Examiner's indication that claims 4, 5, 12, 17, and 18 contain patentable subject matter. Applicant submits that claims 1-29 are now in condition for allowance. Such allowance is respectfully requested.

If necessary, Applicant requests that this Amendment be considered a request for an extension of time for a time appropriate for the response to be timely filed. Applicant requests that any required fees for filing this Amendment be charged to the account of Bose McKinney & Evans LLP, Deposit Account Number 02-3223.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the number provided below should any questions or comments arise during the course of reconsideration of this matter.

Respectfully submitted,

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